

February 13, 2003

**Honorable Michael Powell**

**Chairman**

**Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20544**

**RE: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers**

Dear Honorable Michael Powell,

I am writing to you today regarding, CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, to urge you to make the necessary changes to this policy that will reflect the current condition and needs of the telecommunications industry as it exists today. The existing policy is antiquated. I realize that the provisions of Section 251 were originally crafted as an incentive to spur competition in the local phone market. And on the surface it appears as though the measures taken were successful.

The truth of the matter is, the artificially low access rates of local communication channels or the (UNE-P) paid by the new service providers has become the exact tool by which competition is being stifled. The existing carriers are being forced to take a 60% loss on their investment as they sell the unbundled network elements to their competitors, and the new companies entering the industry stopped building their own networks because it was more economical to lease the lines of the incumbent carrier.

The result is NO Incentive for either provider, new or existing to invest in the telecommunications infrastructure in this country. If this situation continues status quo, the reliability of communications in this country will suffer at a time of economic uncertainty and increased tensions surrounding national security.

From a business and economical perspective, the lack of investment in the telecommunications infrastructure will not only adversely affect the reliability of the network but will impede the development and implementation of innovative technologies. Not to mention cost thousand jobs.

My final point, from the consumer perspective, the residents of this country are not and will not reap the benefits of true competition as the current provisions prevent true competition from existing and evolving in the marketplace. No one is winning here, everyone is losing, I urge you to address this matter as what I have learned about it gives me and my membership and my associated community and business organizations, great concern.

Respectfully yours,  
Imad Hamad

Michigan Director  
Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

Cc: Commissioner Abernathy  
Commissioner Adelstein  
Commissioner Martin  
Commissioner Copps